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THE PURCHASE SYSTEM IN THE BRITISH ARMY.

The following remarks on the above subject appear in the *Daily News* of 25th February, from the pen of Sir C. E. Trevelyan.

Sir.—Under the "purchase system" the British Army is based upon a money qualification. Other tests may be applied, but their influence is limited and governed by the condition that admission to and promotion in the Army must, as a rule, be purchased with money. Purchase and professional qualification are antagonistic and incompatible principles. We must take our choice of them. The Army cannot be constituted upon both at the same time. If certain sums of money have to be deposited as the condition of successive steps of appointment and promotion, those who have really money at their disposal must be appointed and promoted even in preference to other better qualified persons. However much an officer may devote himself to his profession, whatever he may undergo in the way of colonial and tropical service, and whatever pains he may take to acquire the various branches of military science, he is liable to the mortification and discouragement of being frequently passed over by persons inferior to him in every claim of service and professional ability, if he has not money enough to purchase his promotion.

The large and important class of well-educated young men who depend for their advancement upon their own exertions, and not upon their wealth and connexions, and who constitute the pith of the law, the church, the Indian Civil Service, and other active professions, are thus ordinarily excluded from the Army. Well-educated poor men are notoriously those who throw themselves into their work with the greatest energy and perseverance, and the Army would soon reform itself if it had its fair share of them. On the other hand, idle young men, who dislike the restraints of school, and desire to lead an easy, enjoyable life, are attracted to the Army as the only profession in which advancement depends, not so much upon personal qualifications as upon a certain command of money. Even those who combine pecuniary with personal qualifications often find, as they advance in the Army, that the growing amount paid by them for their successive commissions is more than they can, with justice to their families, risk upon their lives, or sacrifice upon their promotion to the rank of major-general, and they therefore retire at a period of their career when the experience they have acquired makes their services peculiarly valuable.

The encouragement which the purchase system gives to young men of fortune to enter the Army as a fashionable pastime aggravates the pecuniary embarrassments of those who desire to follow it as a profession. The style of living is pitched so high by the former class, in the absence of any sufficient check from poorer comrades and a prevailing professional spirit, that it would be impossible for the younger officers to live upon their pay, even if they received it unencumbered by purchase. There is nothing of this sort in the Navy, the Artillery, or Engineers, or the Indian Army. The habit is so rooted in the present constitution of the Army that all the efforts of commanding officers can only slightly help it in check. All the tendencies of the purchase system are adverse to a well-regulated economy. The original commission is usually purchased by an advance of family property, which has to be secured by a life insurance. Therefore, besides the loss of the interest upon the advance, the premium upon the life insurance has to be deducted from the officer's pay; then, the young officer, in the struggle to get on and to avoid being passed over, is tempted to borrow further sums, which are secured by further life insurances, and all this time he has to keep up an appearance of equality in his expenditure with associates belonging to rich landed, commercial, and manufacturing families, who do not look upon the Army as a profession, but only desire to spend a few years pleasantly in good society, with the prestige which belongs to the military character. The purchase system puts the fortunes of families at hazard, on a precarious life tenure, in a manner quite unknown in other professions. An officer is not even permitted to sell, in order to provide for his family after he has fallen into a dangerous state of health. We encourage in the Army what we condemn in every other line of life—the sinking of the family property in an annuity on the life of a single member of it. This is the reverse of life insurance, to favour which a special exemption was made in the Income-tax Act. Life insurance saves from income to secure a future capital. Army purchase sacrifices an existing capital for the sake of obtaining an income.

In other professions the remuneration consists, not only of what is received, but of what is hoped to be obtained. A few prizes in expectation are thus made to do the work of a much larger amount in actual payments; and a stimulating and elevating moral influence is created the value of which cannot be estimated in money. A general desire exists to raise the Army in the scale of professions; to make it more attractive to a better class of men, and to increase the inducements to self-improvement and good conduct; but these natural and wholesome aspirations are repelled by the purchase system, which has built up a wall of separation between the officers and privates. Persons promoted from the ranks are not the means of buying themselves out, they cannot stand the expense of messing, and of the general style of living among the officers. The Secretary at War wrote to the Treasury in December, 1845:

"At present the promotion of a non-commissioned officer is almost equivalent to ruin. The purchase of commissions, subscriptions to mess, band, &c., and the purchase of a horse, if in a cavalry regiment, more than swallow up the first year's pay. The officer is necessarily in debt, and his life is a perpetual struggle to free himself from the encumbrances which have been imposed upon him as a reward for his good conduct, and in this struggle he is frequently exposed to temptations which end in his disgrace. At best, he must lead a life of self-denial and privation."

When it is remembered that our Army is recruited on the voluntary principle, it must be admitted that this is a serious state of things. If the system were as modified that every man in the ranks who, by previous education and subsequent cultivation, and thorough good conduct, had acquired the necessary qualifications for an officer, and deserved to be an officer, could look forward to promotion, numerous elements would take place with the hope of obtaining the higher promotion, and those persons best qualified for it would have the greatest fixed tendency to enlist. As it is, a great gulf is fixed between the ranks of the Army and the higher grades of the profession, and the consequence is that the Army has to be recruited in public-houses from the class of society least suited, from education and manners, to associate with gentlemen. Persons in a high position connected with the recruiting system are ashamed of it. Persons in an inferior position are corrupted by it. There cannot be a more

decisive proof of the unsoundness of the principle upon which our Army is based than the fact that, in order to recruit it, we are compelled to retain practices altogether inconsistent with the morality of the present generation. In former days the middle class was trained to the use of arms with a view to national defence, and they showed, on many memorable occasions, what they were capable of for the honour and safety of England. They established our military reputation at Cressy and Agincourt, and under Cromwell, they held all England, Ireland, and Scotland in subjection. But since the Restoration it has been the practice to exclude them from our military system, and to base the defence of the country on the highest and lowest classes. In recent times the middle class has received a remarkable extension, and the present greatness of England is mainly due to their successful exertion in every branch of industry and enterprise at home and abroad. That they have not lost a particle of their military spirit is evident from the manner in which they came forward as volunteers in our father's time and in our own. To allow no place to this portion of our population in the Army is like fighting with one hand tied. The upper, middle, and lower classes in this country cordially co-operate for the public good in other fields of action, and if the Army were properly constituted it would not form an exception. The English Army would be brought into harmony with the rest of the English political and social system; and as our military arrangements would be based upon moral and intellectual qualification, instead of money, every rank of the Army would be elevated in character and position.

This defect in our institutions has, at last, come to a crisis, and we have to provide against the formidable contingency of a deficiency of men for the Army. As yet, without attempting to reach the seat of the disease, we have confined our attention to the symptoms, and our treatment has therefore been both ineffectual and expensive. Good conduct pay and rewards to sergeants on the non-effective estimate have fallen short of their object. The Recruiting Commission has recommended various arrangements on the same principle of improving the circumstances of privates and non-commissioned officers as such. All the resources of the Exchequer, however, would be insufficient to bring the pay of the Army up to the level of the prevailing rate of wages, and even this would not atone for the absence of the natural advancement which is the reward of merit in every other line of life. There is a craving in human nature for a better and higher condition, which forms the self-supporting principle of every open profession. We must either greatly increase the advantages of the privates and non-commissioned officers in the relative position in which they now are, and thus provide a double set of promotions, or re-arrange our military system as to make the existing higher promotion bear with practical effect on the body of the Army. The first of these alternatives is impracticable, both in a financial and administrative point of view. To open to the soldier the career of his own profession is the only possible course. This will solve the recruiting difficulty, by making admission to the ranks a privilege, and dismissal from them a punishment, by restoring to the Army important classes which are at present practically excluded from it, and by making the Army a highly popular institution, common to every portion of English society.

But the Army has an administrative as well as a combatant side. Military operations must be supported by a well-organized administration of provisions, stores, hospitals, transport, and an effective administration cannot be secured without the co-operation of every rank of the Army. This great desideratum has been provided for by a report of a War-office Commission. Purchase is to be eliminated from the Military Train, as incompatible with promotion according to qualification and merit, and the members of the administrative corps are to be selected from the officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates of the Army. When this principle shall be extended to the combatant ranks the Army will be accepted by all classes of our population as an institution in which they have a new and peculiar interest, because, whether they have a turn for business or for a purely military life, they will find in the Army a corresponding career, with liberal rewards to encourage them.

It is a mistake to suppose that, if our Army were remodelled on professional principles, it would no longer furnish suitable occupation to young men who are heirs to considerable properties. On the contrary, this object would be more completely attained than before. The Army would be a school as well as a playground. While in the Army, our young men of fortune would have to work as if they depended upon it for their subsistence, and they would be the better all their lives for having belonged for a time to a really liberal profession. Only the incompetent, who ought, under any circumstances, to be excluded, would fail to obtain admission; and many who now depend upon their money and connexions for advancement would be stimulated to acquire the personal qualifications necessary for success. Our aristocratic families are so strongly impressed with the necessity of giving their sons the best possible education, and are regarded with such general favour and respect, that we need be under no apprehension about their obtaining their full share in this as well as in every other competition. We should do them injustice if we doubted their success, and argued as if they stood in need of protection. Whatever raises the standard of education in a profession gives an advantage to the upper class. More young men of that class would be likely to enter the Army under the new conditions of service, because, while the inducement to enter would remain as at present in time of war, the Army would, even in time of peace, offer a career to those who are disposed to an active intellectual life.

In order that there may be as many persons as possible able to take part in the defence of the country, our military system should be so framed as to encourage young men to enter the Army, to give them a good professional training while they are in it, and to offer no obstacle to their leaving it. Under present circumstances, the most interesting point of view in which the regular Army can be regarded is as a school of instruction and source of supply for the Army of reserve which will have to be formed. All this will be better provided for under the new than under the old arrangement. The motive which induces our upper classes to enter the Army is not the privilege of exhausting their patrimony and incurring debt in the purchase of commissions, but the cheerful

"These battles were won by the young archers, a middle class element wanting in the French army, and being trained in the French army."

out-of-door, adventurous life, the prestige, the hope of attaining early distinction—all which will remain as before. Public bodies have a distinctive character as strongly marked as that of individuals. The household troops and the cavalry and infantry of the line will always be more popular than the artillery and engineers with young men who desire only to pass a few years pleasantly and profitably in the Army. This has nothing to do with purchase, but arises from the severe scientific ordeal by which admission is obtained to the artillery and engineers, and from the special character of the service, and from the total exclusion of the element of chance by a long line of seniority promotion. Young men enter the Army, not in consequence of purchase, but in spite of it. An officer who enters without paying, and resigns without receiving anything, is better off than one who pays for his commission and gets his money back on quitting the Army by the full amount of the interest and life insurance on the purchase money, which is often greater than the pay he receives. The motives to early retirement are also of a permanent character; marriage, disinclination to foreign service, the natural desire of men of independent means or good expectations to follow pursuits connected with their future intended career, will continue to operate as before; while in one respect the inducements to retire will be increased. The degree to which officers are appointed to situations in our vast industrial and political system, at home and abroad, must always depend upon their reputation for the qualities which command success, and the number selected from an Army based on professional qualifications is likely to be greater than from one founded upon purchase.

It is popularly supposed that all idea of entertaining the question of the abolition of purchase is precluded by the exorbitant amount of the compensation that would have to be paid. According to a return furnished in 1856, the value of the then existing commissions, at the current rates, was upwards of seven millions sterling. But, according to the regulations and custom of the service, only officers who retire from the Army by sale are entitled to the price of their commissions. Those who remain in the Army are promoted to be major, lieutenant, or captain, or to take civil appointments connected with the Army, do not recover the price of their commissions. Neither is anything received on this account by the relatives of officers who die in the service. The average annual number of officers who retire by sale in the two years immediately preceding the Crimean War was 332, and the price of their commissions was £321,000 per annum at the regulation rates, or about £753,000 at the current rates. The question, therefore, is whether more or less than the average annual number would retire in consequence of the change of system, and this, of course, would depend upon the new terms of service under that system. Every additional advantage given would diminish the amount to be paid in compensation, by inducing a greater number to remain. Promotion without purchase, increased rates of pay, and improved conditions of prospective full-pay retirement would strengthen the motives for continuing in the service; and although some officers might retire, others would stay to succeed to the vacancies. There would, therefore, be a self-adjusting process which would have its influence in diminishing the number of retirements.

An account should be taken of the amount which each officer, below the rank of general officer, might fairly expect to receive for the value of his commission, according to the custom of the service. The amount would be required by purchase or length of service, or whether it consisted of the regulation price only, or of that price with the additional sum usually paid with the tacit permission of the authorities; and he should have the option of retiring whenever it might be convenient to him to do so, receiving that amount from the State, or of remaining in the service under the revised regulations. The claims for compensation would be largest in the first year, because those who retired at once would receive the full value of what they gave up; whereas, as time went on, promotion would purchase would be made, and those who retired at a later period would only get the value of the commissions which they held when the purchase system was abolished. There would therefore be a rapidly increasing tendency to look forward to promotion without purchase and full-pay retirement, instead of looking back to retiring with the value of the last commission obtained under the purchase system. But, whether the amount be small or great, it is the necessary price of the reform of the Army. Having hitherto thrown upon its military officers the cost of providing their own retirements, and desiring to escape from the evils connected with this false position, the nation must repay, in some shape or other, the sums which have been advanced by individuals in support of the system under which their services were engaged. The solidity which characterises public improvements in England is chiefly attributable to the free recognition of the justice and good policy of making full compensation for every private loss involved in the change.

I am, &c., C. E. TREVELYAN.

SOMEONE'S DARING.

(From the *New York Herald*.)
The following exploits were told by Miss Maria Leeson, of New York, who was visiting in London, and who was unfortunately too common in both (American) armies—

—In a word, the white-haired woman, who was wounded by bayonets, shells, and balls—
—Someone's daring was borne one day.
—Someone's heart was in the fight, and he was wearing still on his pale, great face,
—Soon to be laid by the dust of the grave.
The lightning light of his boyhood's grace.

Matted and damp are the curls of gold,
Kissing the brow of that fair young boy;
Fate are the lips of delicate mould—
Someone's darling is dying now.
Back from the beautiful blue-veined face
Brush away wandering silver threads;
Cross his hands as a sign of grace—
Someone's darling is still and dead.

—Kiss him once for Someone's sake,
Murmur a prayer soft and low,
One bright look from the dying face—
They were Someone's pride, you know.
Someone's hand held him fast;
Was it a mother's, soft and white?
And have the lips of a bride
Been laid in those warm lips of light?

God knows best. Was it Someone's love,
Someone's heart which led him there;
Someone's darling was borne one day.
Someone's heart was in the fight, and he was wearing still on his pale, great face,
—Soon to be laid by the dust of the grave.
The lightning light of his boyhood's grace.

Someone's watching and waiting for him,
Yearning to hold him again to his heart;
There he lies—with the blue eyes closed,
And the smiling lips that were so brave;
Tenderly bears the fair young man,
Framing to drop on his grave a tear;
Curses on the wooden slab of the dead—
Someone's darling lies buried here!"

DESTITUTION IN LONDON.

The Rev. Isaac Taylor, incumbent of Bethnal Green, London, has written a pamphlet on private distribution, in which the following heart-rending disclosures are made as to the distress and misery prevailing in his parish—

"The poverty and misery of Bethnal Green are notorious. The parish of St. Matthias, one of the twelve parishes into which this vast district was divided by the scheme of the late Bishop of London, occupies the most wretched and poverty-stricken corner of Bethnal Green. To a space of some 400 yards in length by 300 in breadth—an area considerably less than that of Russell or Edgware squares—between 6000 and 7000 human beings are thickly crowded together in poverty and squalor. There are few persons to whom the precise locality is not known, few who have not themselves inspected even the streets of the houseless habitation by these miserable people. The passenger by the Great Eastern Railway, during the first 500 yards which he traverses after leaving the Shoreditch terminus, is carried through the very centre of the parish of St. Matthias, leaving behind him the wretched carriages, he goes on either side into wretched attics; he sees the broken, rag-stuffed pines—the black, flint plaster peeling from the mouldy walls—the crumbling looms peeling up the small streets of the parish, and the faces of the poor, famished-looking men, plying the endless shuttle. This portion of Bethnal Green is the head-quarters of what is known as the Spitalfields district. The silk-weavers, by way of the parish of St. Matthias, are mainly populated, are descendants of those Huguenot exiles who, for the cause of God and truth and liberty and life, fled from the sunny plains of their native France in the year of Edgware square, between 6000 and 7000 human beings are thickly crowded together in poverty and squalor. 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(From the Illustrated Times.)

In obedience to the Royal command, Parliament assembled on Tuesday last. The time fixed for the House of Commons to meet was half-past 11; but long before then, as usual, the House began to fill, and at the hour appointed there were about 200 members present. At twenty minutes to 2 Mr. Speaker arrived, in usual form, preceded by Lord Charles Russell, the Secretary-at-Arms, and followed by the Rev. Charles Merivale, the Chaplain. Mr. Speaker, having to meet her Majesty, wore his grand State robe—black silk trimmed with gold; and the Secretary-at-Arms appeared in full Court costume. There was no change in the order of proceedings, all being done according to prescribed custom. Mr. Speaker took his seat at the table; prayers were read by the Chaplain; and then, still seated at the table, Mr. Speaker waited until the summons from the Queen should arrive. Two o'clock was the time fixed, but her Majesty was rather late; and it was quite a quarter past before Black Rod arrived. As soon as Mr. Speaker had received notice that the Queen had arrived, he mounted to his chair. Here, by-the-way, was a slight deviation from old routine, just a step out of the deep-traditional footmarks of ancient custom. Usually, Mr. Speaker does not take the chair until the knocks at the door announce the arrival of Black Rod, but on this occasion he was to take the chair as soon as he was told that the Queen was on the Throne. The reason for this slight divergence from the line was this:—On former occasions there were unseemly crowdings, and jostlings, and whisperings at the bar of the House of Lords. Mr. Speaker wished mildly to rebuke the members for their disorderly proceedings and to express a hope that on this occasion they would behave better, and thus he did from the chair, whilst Black Rod was on his way, in a few stately words. He had scarcely closed his exhortation, when the doors were flung open, "Black Rod!" was shouted by the doorkeeper, and in marched Sir Augustus Clifford, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod. Sir Augustus was dressed in the Court uniform, blue, embossed and trimmed with gold, with the blue ribbon of the Order of the Bath round his neck. Very elaborately indeed was Sir Augustus adorned—too elaborately, as it seemed to us. Such a blaze, indeed, of blue and gold, that it seemed as if he were made for the clothes, and not the clothes for him. Sir Augustus used to be a very stately man and excellent actor. In years past no man could play his part as he could. With what infinite grace he used to bow to Mr. Speaker! and with what ease and accuracy, and even dignity, he performed the difficult task of marching backwards! He did all this as if he were to the manner born. But Sir Augustus is now very old; he is on the shady side of eighty; and, though he is still as upright as his official rod when he plants it on the table, his back is not so pliant as it was, and that backward march is evidently now a trying task. In nautical phrase, he gets adrift and is in danger of running foul, as he would have said in his young days; for Sir Augustus was not bred a courtier, but a sailor, and was for many years at sea. He entered the Navy in 1800, and during the great war saw service in Egypt and many other parts of the world. But in 1833, long after the war was over, he left the quarter-deck for the Court; for in that year he became Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod—with a comfortable salary, a splendid house, and, besides these periodical marchings, but little to do. The sermon of Mr. Speaker certainly did some good for a time. The members left the House in better order than they have done for many years past. But the effect of this sermon, like that of most sermons, was but temporary. Across the House of Commons' lobby the members marched in decency and order, but in the House of Commons' corridor "the pace quickened"—the ranks were broken. In the central hall there was something like a rush, and it seemed not unlikely that Mr. Speaker and his cortege would, before he got to the Upper House, be hustled and jostled as heretofore, to the great damage of his State robes and to the ruffling of his temper and dignity. But suddenly the incipient rush was stopped, for at the entrance into the Lords' corridor the authorities of the House had erected a stout barrier through the narrow passage in which only two members could pass at a time; and before the crowd of members could percolate, as it were, through the opening, Mr. Speaker and his attendants had arrived safely at the bar of the House of Lords; and so, what with the effect of Mr. Speaker's sermon at the beginning, and the wooden barrier in the middle of the march, it was accomplished with something like order and with no danger. *Eato perperis*, therefore: let the sermon become a seasonal order, and the barrier a permanent institution. That the Lord Chancellor should read the Royal Speech is not unprecedented. Charles I., who had an impediment of speech, once spoke as follows to his Parliament:—"Now, because I am unfit for much speaking, I mean to bring up the fashion of my predecessors to have my Lord Keeper speak for me in most things; therefore have commanded him to speak something unto you at this time, which is more for formality than any great matter he hath to say unto you." Indeed, for long centuries the Lord Keeper always set forth in opening of Parliament the reason why it was called together, and the King only uttered some complimentary words, never venturing upon any matter relating to business. James I. used to indulge in a mass of commonplace stuff, larded with Latin, no doubt, and texts of Scripture; but even he never touched the Parliamentary business. Charles II. first began the practice of opening Parliament with a speech previously prepared. He read his speech, excusing the practice by the plea that he wanted memory. The modern Royal Speech, consisting of a programme of the policy in power, dates from the reign of William III. Let not our readers then object that her Majesty, in delegating the reading of the Speech to her Lord Chancellor, has introduced a novelty. She has only brought up the fashion of her predecessors. When the Speech was finished, Mr. Speaker returned to the House of Commons. He did not, though, take the chair, but marched straight through to his own residence. "The House adjourned then?" No, it did not adjourn. The mace was left on the table; and when the bauble is in position the House is not adjourned. The sitting was merely suspended, and at a quarter to 4 Mr. Speaker glided in by the back way, and without form resumed his seat. When he arrived the House was full, but not crowded. No amendment was expected, and therefore there had been no special whip; the members who usually attend only were present. The birds of omen—the stormy petrels, as we call them—the men who seldom come unless they are summoned for a fight—were not there. The House then looked much as usual, except that the Conservatives were on the right and the Liberals on the left of the Speaker, a state of things to which we have not

got used to yet, and perhaps shall hardly get used to before the command "As you were" shall be given, and once more the two great parties shall change places. Soon after the Speaker resumed the chair Disraeli made his appearance, and of course was hailed with a volley of cheers from his party. The Conservative leader looks well, though time every year, as it does with all, passes a deeper shade over him. Gladstone—who came in soon after, and was also received with a rattling salute from all the Liberal guns—seemed to have renewed his youth. He has thrown off the burden of office; has travelled, too, by sea and land, and is clearly in full health and as lively as a colt. What a contrast is this to what he was when he left the House after the great division of last year! Then he looked pale, faded, and mortified. Now his face is bronzed by the sea air; his eye sparkles with health, and evidently he is inspired by hope rather than pressed down by disappointment. In short, he is rejuvenescent. Mr. Bright came in after Gladstone, and he, too, was greeted with cheers from his friends before the gangway. And so the hosts mustered on the first night, each under its elected chief, all peaceable, though, at present; but all, no doubt, expecting war before long; and war—there will be no question of that—war to the knife. How it will begin we scarcely can tell, and how it will end no mortal can foresee. In 1859, when Lord Hartington rose to move a vote of want of confidence, Hayter knew he should win, and Colonel Taylor foresaw that he should lose; but now the whips on both sides are at fault. They can see and hear the storm coming plainly enough, but the result even their practised sagacity does not enable them to discern. The Address—Address to the Crown, readers, in reply to her Majesty's most gracious speech—was moved by the Hon. Mr. De Grey, Lord Walsingham's eldest son, and seconded by Mr. Graves; moved by a member of the aristocracy, seconded by a merchant, as the custom is. Both these gentlemen appeared in the blazing uniforms of a Deputy-Lieutenant—scarlet with silver mountings—and looked, as they sat there in their fiery, very conspicuous Mr. De Grey seemed as if he had been used to such dress, probably this was the first time that he had ever appeared in uniform. Of the speeches of these gentlemen little need be said. They got through, as the phrase is very well, which means that they did not break down. Mr. De Grey was at times rather lively, and was rewarded now and then with cheers. Moreover, he was short, which fact argues at least modesty and discretion—virtues highly appreciated in the House. Mr. Graves certainly was not lively, and, moreover, his speech was awfully long. "But the matter of these speeches, have you nothing to say about that?" perhaps some of our readers may ask. No, indeed, we did not hear them, and have not read them. We walked into the House three or four times just to see how the honorable gentlemen were getting on; but, as to listening to their speeches, "catch an old bird with chaff." We had read her Majesty's Speech, and that was enough. These Address speeches are only, with more or less art, and generally with no art at all, variations upon that theme. Besides, we knew the performers; had gauged their artistic capabilities, and were not attracted to listen to their music, but rather repelled. In short, dear readers, having been accustomed to attend the House for many years, and having a perfect knowledge of all the performers there, and their various talents or no talents, it is not often that we are tempted to listen to speeches. This may surprise you; but remember there is such a thing as satiety. Butchers' children, it is said, dislike meat, and confectioners never eat sweet. We cannot, therefore, say anything of the matter of these speeches, but can only report that the speakers "got through" very well. We thought that we should have had a long debate and a late night, but were agreeably disappointed; for, after a lively speech from Mr. Gladstone and a jaunty reply from Mr. Disraeli, both being in the best of humours, Mr. Speaker rose, and put the question; then, nobody else rising, the House adjourned. On Wednesday there was no small curiosity to see Mr. Kavanagh—the gentleman born without arms or legs—take the oath; and this curiosity was satisfied, for soon after the House met, the hon. member for the county of Wexford made his appearance. He entered the House through the door at the back of the Speaker, seated in a chair, which, by an ingenious contrivance, he can wheel about himself. Mr. Powell used to do this; but then he did it in the common way, by turning the high wheels of the chair with his hands. Mr. Kavanagh has no hands, but only short stumps; but necessity is the mother of invention, and some clever mechanic has contrived a simple piece of machinery by which Mr. Kavanagh can propel his chair as easily as Mr. Powell could his. On each side of his chair there is a cup; in these cups Mr. Kavanagh places his stumps, and, by a circular motion, he turns a perpendicular rod, which, by means of four wheels, turns the axle of the greater wheels, and thus propels the chair forward; and, as there is in front of the chair a guiding wheel, he can, of course, steer which way he pleases. Mr. Kavanagh of course took the oath sitting, holding the Testament between his stumps. He signed the book as easily as any other member could, holding the pen as he held the Testament. It is the custom for every new member, after he has taken the oath to shake hands with the Speaker. Mr. Kavanagh, of course, could not do that. He therefore bowed only to the Speaker as he passed out. Where he will sit, and how he will speak—for speak he will, we may be sure, as he is an able man—the Speaker has not yet decided.

A DAY IN CANTON.

For a whole day and night, I have been living in a region of phantasmagoria. I cannot call it dreamland, for that word represents something airy and poetical, whilst my place of abode has been singularly airless, and all the poetry it contained was what some people are fond of calling the poetry of common life, which expresses itself in the very practical measures of working for food and clothing, preparing food and clothing, and using food and clothing. Nevertheless, the vision which has passed before my eyes was utterly unlike anything I have ever before witnessed. Hongkong is supposed by some Europeans to be in China; this is a great mistake. It is true that the majority of the inhabitants are Chinese, who shave their heads in the orthodox fashion, and wear pig-tails, or to speak more accurately, cow-tails; but Hongkong has been rapidly and decidedly Anglicised, possesses excellent European shops, and has capital roads, which in an evening are thronged by horses, carriages and pedestrians of Western aspect. Hongkong has several clubs, Christian churches, houses built according to English ideas, banks, courts of law, prisons, counting-houses in accordance with Western ideas of civilisation. To

see and live in Hongkong is not to see and live in China. But being desirous of seeing China as it was, and, probably will be for the next thousand years, we resolved to visit the ancient city of Canton, which, we were assured, is as pure a specimen of China as Moscow is of Russia, or Cairo of Egypt. Two lines of steamers connect Hongkong daily with Canton; and at 9 in the morning we started on board one of these American boats with the so-called "walking-beam" on deck, which are much patronised on American rivers, and are equally popular out here.

We had been warned that in going to stay at Canton we must be prepared to "rough it" considerably; indeed, the kind anxiety of friends had represented the possible difficulties in rather a formidable light. We were told that since the burning of the old factories, there were but few merchants' houses there, and that we should be compelled to sleep in a "pack-house," with an open roof, and very deficient apparatus in all respects. Little or nothing has been said of the steamers; but we felt in rather a critical spirit generally on setting forth on our journey. A few minutes on board the steamer dispelled any forebodings as regarded our means of conveyance. A civil black steward ushered us to the upper deck, where we were courteously received by the Yankee captain, a capital fellow in all respects, who did the honours of an excellent breakfast with a pleasant and easy manner.

The cabin, instead of being placed at the stern, was a long way forward, so that we had the benefit of a cool breeze, which did not convey to us any of those unpleasant odours which are sure to arise from a congregation of Chinese passengers. By the time we had disposed of the pipe, which was as good in its way as the breakfast had been, we were passing what remains of the once celebrated Bogue forts. They were very extensive, but could never have been very formidable defences against European sailors and soldiers.

We took a turn through the cabins set apart for Chinese passengers, and had an opportunity of seeing how opium is smoked. Long ago, I had an idea that there was something rather horrible and degrading about this exhibition; and, if I am not mistaken, such is the general impression in England. So far as I witnessed it, it is neither more nor less horrible than seeing a gentleman put his feet on a chair opposite the one he is sitting upon, and light his cigar at the candle. The pipe in which opium is smoked consists of a straight stem about a foot long, with a very small bowl near the center. The preparation of the opium by the smoker takes some little time, as it is held over a small lamp placed by his side, and turned round and round on the end of a thin steel or iron skewer. When it has been worked into a proper pyramidal shape, it is dropped into the bowl in a half-fluid state, and ignited at the lamp; a very few whiffs suffice to consume it. Then an expression of celestial contentment becomes visible on the countenance of the smoker.

The scenery about the Bogue forts is interesting; and several ranges of rather lofty mountains are seen in the distance. Here and there, the banks of the river somewhat remind me of the less fertile parts of the Rhine above Coblenz. At Whampoa, a good deal of shipping, both native and foreign, was lying; and our captain told us that the day previous he had seen there a sort of running-fight between the custom-house boat and a piratical junk; but the junk I am afraid got away unharmed. Soon after this, we came in sight of Canton, passed by paddies, where arose powerful odours, which were not as those of Arabis the Blast, proceeding as they did from the manure, which the hand of industry was plentifully lading out in a liquid state upon the ground; a most praiseworthy performance, agriculturally speaking, but pernicious in a high degree to the European sense of smell.

It was raining heavily when we hauled up opposite the city. I wonder what Mr. Poole would have thought of the paletoles which the Canton boatmen wear in wet weather, formed as they are of dried plantain-leaves held together by a string. A hungry cow or donkey might be tempted to make a meal of them, but cows and donkeys are scarce in Canton, and the vegetable greatacosts seem to answer their purpose. At any rate, they are exceedingly fishionable on the river.

The friend on whose hospitality we had intended to throw ourselves, was unfortunately absent, and no boat was in waiting for us; but this want was soon supplied, and we rowed to the nearest English *ahong* (being in this case a combination of boat and office). The host in this case also was absent, and the only European occupant was an Englishman in the same position as ourselves, who had been in possession of the house for days. Nevertheless, we soon had bedrooms allotted to us, and were discussing some excellent sherry and bitters in the verandah—a mixture I may parenthetically observe, much affected by European gentlemen in these parts. To show how hospitality is understood and practised here, a gentleman, who lived on the other side of the river, and who was a friend of our friend, hearing of our arrival, came over at once to request that our party, consisting of two married couples, would come and stay at his house as long as we remained in Canton. However, as we had already established ourselves on a comfortable basis, we resolved to remain where we were. As soon as we were ready for it, an excellent dinner made its appearance, consisting of soup, fish, two entrees, a joint, a fowl, curry, tarts, pudding, and cheese, with first-rate sherry. We could not help speculating as to what might be the feeling of a respectable householder in Great Britain on returning home, after a few days' summer tour, to find his house occupied by five people, three of whom he had never seen in his life before, and who were now eating his dinner and drinking his best sherry and claret as pleasantly as if they had been brought up with him from the cradle. But one's mind becomes enlarged by foreign travel, and nobody's appetite or happiness appeared to be injuriously affected by these considerations. Occasionally, I half expected to see a large white cat walk in and desire us to cut off her head and tail, and throw them into the fire; and though now unfortunately a married man, I had made up my mind to gratify her by immediately complying with her request.

I cannot suppose it was in honour of our arrival, but it so happened that there was that night at Canton a theatrical representation, which, in "pidgin English" is known as the Sing-song, and to this place of amusement we, the three gentlemen, resolved to go. Sallying forth by the back door (for the front door opened upon the river), preceded by coolies with lanterns, we went along a stone causeway, which soon faded into a bamboo causeway, first by the bank of the river, and then across a ruddy field, after which we reached this Chinese temple of Theopis. Scrambling up a precipitous ladder we came upon a crowd of Chinamen on a bamboo platform; and being helped

down by a mysterious individual who would, I presume, have been the boxkeeper if there had been any boxes, we found ourselves in front of the stage, though so far from it as to make it impossible for us to enjoy the dialogue. As none of us understood Chinese, this was not exceedingly important; moreover, the actions of the players were at times so very significant that we were enabled to follow the story of the piece with sufficient accuracy. I regret that I cannot record the incidents, and I do not think it probable that the Lord Chamberlain would have consented to its production at the Haymarket without modifications which would have almost amounted to suppression. I fear that if this was a fair specimen of the Chinese legitimate drama, the stage cannot be looked upon as a high school for morals in this country. However deplorable this may be to the mind of a Briton, who reflects with just pride on the intellectual and moral effect produced by those extravaganzas, parodies, and farces at home which are now filling our theatres with appreciative audiences, I am constrained to say that the five or six thousand Chinamen assembled in the enormous bamboo building in the paddy-field amongst the bull-forts, appeared to enjoy their Sing-song immensely. The Cantonese, however, are a frivolous people, quite the Parisians of China, and do not possess any of the serious judgment of a London public in such matters.

Their stage arrangements, I confess, left a good deal to be desired, as did also the music, so I need not call it music. I should like to have seen M. Coslov's face, and to have had him sitting beside me, whilst we listened to those fascinating strains. The nearest imitation I can think of would be produced by causing several pigs to squeal violently, whilst two bagpipes, played by street Highlanders, muffed-man's bell, and a big drum kept time to them.

The lighting of the house was almost entirely confined to the stage, and was effected by cotton-wicks floating in saucers of oil; a super-numerary went round every two or three minutes and snuffed them with his fingers. Drop-scene there was none, nor, indeed, any scenery at all, in our sense of the word.

The most objectionable feature in the proceedings, apart from the question of morals, was the circumstance of perhaps five hundred Chinamen having perched themselves on the rafters, like so many bats on the beams of a barn; and as the building was apparently constructed on the most primitive architectural principles, we had constantly on our minds the idea of a possible descent of Chinamen on our heads, from a height of sixty or seventy feet. Such an apprehension would have taken away the dramatic appetite of *Damocles*, but Chinese buildings, though they look flimsy, hold together wonderfully, thanks to the toughness of bamboo, and a Chinaman can beat a hen at roosting; so we got safely through our Sing-song. We had a slight altercation on leaving, as to whether we should pay three dollars or one, but our friend who had undertaken the paying department was firm, and the collector finally subsided.

Thanks to extra-solid mosquito curtains, we passed a tranquil night, contrary to my expectations, for I had had a vision of a mosquito during dinner which realised all my warmest imaginings of that subject. He was a splendid specimen of his race, black and thick-bodied, and flew as strong on the wing as a partridge. How he would have bitten!

Neither our invisible host nor the white cat having made their appearance, the five self-invited guests breakfasted together on the following morning. For some time, we watched from our balcony the strange river-life floating, sailing, or sculling along, just beneath us, in boats of wondrous form, up the river, down the river, and across the river, conveying every description of Chinese food and produce, carrying whole families who possessed no other home. It was not difficult to believe that fifty or sixty thousand people habitually live upon the river. At night, when these boats are lit up by lanterns, they present a weird and mysterious appearance, more animated than that of Venice, and almost as picturesque.

We crossed from the Honan side, where we were staying, to the Canton side opposite, took chairs, and proceeded to explore the city. [I do not know whether it is necessary to explain to my English friends, that being carried by coolies in a sedan-chair is the only possible mode of progression here.] And now commenced the phantasmagoria in real earnest. In two minutes, we had plunged amongst a sea of houses, and were almost as completely lost to the outer air as if we had gone down a coal-mine. It would seem that the visits of Europeans to the streets of Canton are still few and far between, especially of European ladies, for at every shop-front, faces of men, women, and children were gazing at us in crowds, and as the streets are about eight feet wide, we went through a continuous avenue of Chinese eyes, mouths, and noses.

Thousands, yes, hundreds of thousands of almond-shaped eyes, wide noses, and high cheek bones inspected us with stolid curiosity; miles of long, black, plaited tails hung down on both sides of us; and as each of our party often lost sight of all the others, we felt like insignificant atoms plunged into an ocean whose waves were composed of shop and human faces, shut in by cliffs of shops and houses. The tops of the houses often meet overhead, and streamers and signboards hang down in front of all of them, so that the sky itself was obscured, and we were hemmed in with a dense airlessness, which increased the feeling of isolation and imprisonment.

Of all the cities in which I have been—and they are not a few—I had hitherto given the palm to Alexandria, as the metropolis of stench, for pungent, sickening, and loathsome intensity, and I need hardly remark, that Cologne, Venice, and Marseille, high as their merits may be, are perfect rose-gardens in comparison. But Alexandria is an insignificantly small fishing-village, in comparison with the mighty city of Canton. I was told there were a million and a half of inhabitants; I could as easily have believed there were five millions. We went through street after street for hours, and never got out of the suburbs but once, when we went to see a distinguished joss-house, just inside the city walls. Our first visit was paid to the porcelain shop of Ushing, which, small as it looked from the outside, expanded backwards and sideways into an immense magazine, where I should have liked to lay out a small fortune in vases. It appeared to me that the handsomest specimens did not generally come to England, though I am told there is an English and American agent in Canton, whose business it is to pick up "curios" for the London and New York markets.

From Ushing's shop we went to the Temple of the Five Hundred Gods, or Virtues, the approaches to which are mean and shabby-looking; nor is the principal building itself handsome. The figures, which are in bronze, ranged round on shelves like a museum, are most of them fantastic in the extreme; but many of the faces are very expressive, and all are typical of some feeling or passion; for example, one, as a soldier, is represented in the act of tearing out his heart, to show his willingness to die for his country. The principles god, before whom joss-sticks were burning, in vases filled with the ashes of former joss-sticks, was really a majestic figure in bronze, of enormous size, and represented an emperor of the second dynasty, who is venerated as one of the great benefactors of China. Behind this statue was a painting which contained three figures, typifying the Past, the Present, and the Future. Within the walls of this vast temple was a pagoda and a number of other buildings, and we were taken to visit the high-priest in a very comfortable apartment, where he received us with many "chin-chins," begged us to sit down, and ordered tea and sweets to be sent. The Chinese drink tea almost scalding hot, without milk or sugar, and we followed the custom as far as we could. Having brought a bottle of sherry with us, we requested the old gentleman to take a glass, which he readily did; but one of the other priests excused himself, on the ground, as explained by our interpreter, that he was "very apt to get drunk."

After a most courteous farewell from our clerical friends, we mounted our chairs again and found a crowd of people waiting to look at us; but I may here remark, that although I heard the objectionable word *Fanqui* (foreign devil) on two occasions, it was not shouted at us, nor did we, throughout our entire journey, meet with the slightest incivility in look or gesture. On the contrary, many of them smiled at us in a friendly way, and one or two chimed us as we passed them. I was greatly struck by the air of comfort, ease, and a sort of *bonhomie*, that appeared to prevail throughout, nor, be it observed, did we see one single drunk man or woman. How people preserve their health in those close, airless streets, with here and there a stagnant ditch of filthy lymph open beside them, is a mystery which seems to set at naught the creed of sanitary reformers. Typhus, scarlet fever, small-pox, and ague ought to have established a perpetual home in the houses of Canton; pale emaciated faces and rickety limbs ought to be nearly universal amongst the inhabitants; yet with every conceivable disregard for all which we are accustomed to consider the first conditions of health, the Cantonese, so far as outward appearances go, are fat and well-looking, nor, I believe, is there any record to show that Canton has been more fatally visited by epidemic diseases than many European cities which pass for being fairly healthy. I sincerely wish the manufacturing population of some of our large towns looked half as strong and well as the men and women who stared at us in the streets of Canton.

I began to wish I could be a Chinaman for about a week; to know how it felt to have half your head shaved, and wear a tail down to your heels; to be able to penetrate this, to me, mysterious social life, which, in spite of what seemed such adverse conditions, looked so rosy and happy; where almost every idea, thought, feeling, and habit in politics, religion, literature, and daily life was a negation of those I held; sit at a shop-door, and smoke and chat pleasantly in Chinese, whilst a barber was plaiting my tail. Barbers, as may be supposed amongst a population of a million and a half, the masculine portion of which are constantly requiring to have their heads shaved, are a numerous and important body. Their operations are carried out in the most public manner, at the corner of streets, at a shop-front, or indeed at any spot where there is a possibility of finding room to sit down. From the joss-house of the five hundred deities we proceeded to the Temple of Longevity. At the outer gate were placed four gigantic figures, something in the style of Gog and Magog; the face of one was green; of a second, pale; of a third, black; and of the fourth, red.

Our guide told us of a legend, which declared that the red-faced giant, in whose hand was a sword, would on the last day raise his arm, and with one blow smite off the heads of all mankind. He candidly added, however: "Book talker so, but my thinker one foolo pidgin." Inside the temple, many joss-sticks were burning in front of the great idol, whose features it was too dark to distinguish. I was anxious to know what was thought of him, and asked the guide where he lived, who replied that it was either in Mongolia or Japan, he was not quite sure which, and that he should come and pray at this shrine if his son fell sick. He remarked that they had also a "sky-joss," but did not seem to set much value upon him; rather, I fancy, on the principle of the Russian proverb, that "God is far off, but the Czar is near."

From the Temple of Longevity we were carried to a joss-house within the walls, where we had the opportunity of seeing the rehearsal of a remarkable ceremony. Once a year, the mandarins go in state during the night to chin-chin their josses, and this was a sort of drill preliminary to the grand review. On a wooden stage in front of the joss-house were drawn up in four rows about forty or fifty men and boys, richly dressed, in blue silk, carrying in one hand a bamboo tipped with a long pheasant's feather, and in the other an instrument which looked like a small red flute. There was a band, consisting of a tom-tom, a sort of harp, and a gong. After a refreshing flourish on these instruments, an old mandarin took up his parable, and snuffed out loudly a few words of command; on which the forty worshippers bent themselves to the right, to the left, or forwards, as the case might be, all keeping time, and gently swaying the pheasant's feathers in the lamboose. Some of their movements were very graceful, but one gesture almost overcame my gravity. Stretching out the pheasant's feathers with their right arms, and balancing themselves on the tips of their left feet, they placed the red flutes at right angles to their respective noses, after the manner of little boys in England when engaged in "taking a sight." The temptation to give them a tip over, so as to upset the whole in a mass on the floor, was almost irresistible.

Fearing the temptation, if repeated, might prove too strong for us, we returned to our chairs, popular excitement being this time divided between the mandarins and ourselves. Again we turned into the densely-crowded streets, the coolies perpsiring visibly, and panting audibly, but keeping up a capital pace to the end. On crossing the river, and reaching our quarters at Honan, we found our invisible host had emerged into sight; but he kindly welcomed us, only deploring the deficiency of his cellar in the matter of champagne. We were to dine on the opposite side of the river; and we crossed in such a storm of thunder and lightning as I had never before witnessed, the whole sky being lit up for a duration of five or ten seconds at a time. Nobody, however,

seemed to think anything of it; and we dined in great comfort, though the thunder seemed to flash just over the house, and lightning to flash in at the windows.

On the following morning, much to our regret, we were compelled to return to Hongkong, leaving many wonderful things unseen in the gay and festive city of Canton, which we hope to accomplish at some future time.

During the night, the sound of tom-toms and gongs had occasionally reached our ears, and as we passed down the river, it was still going on. When a Chinese boat meets a boat carrying a high mandarin, in place of saluting with guns and gunpowder, a gong is violently beaten until the mandarin may suppose to have passed out of hearing. I commend this practice to the attention of our financial reformers at home, as eminently cheap; it is quite as satisfactory, or ought to be, to the dignitary saluted, and saves a world of trouble.—*Chambers.*

THE METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE.—In the House of Commons on the 15th February, Colonel Sykes asked the President of the Board of Trade whether the steam signals, as hitherto practised by the late Admiral Fitzroy, were to be continued, and, if so, in what manner and by whom; and if he was desirous of a report, whether it would be prudent previously to invite the Chamber of Commerce of the kingdom to express their opinion on the subject; and whether the valuable and instructive meteorological report which had been reported daily by the late Admiral Fitzroy's death an inquiry into the place into the whole system of the Meteorological Department, as of course it was necessary to make some provision for supplying his place. A committee was appointed, consisting of a representative of the Royal Society, a representative of the Hydrographical Department of the Admiralty, and a representative of the Board of Trade. This committee reported fully on the subject, and their report was to the effect that the observations which were originally intended to be made, in order that they might form a foundation for a scientific system of meteorology, had been of late years in a great extent discontinued, and that more attention had been given to storm signals and weather forecasts. The committee recommended that for the future more attention should be paid to the collection of information than to prediction, and, consequently a larger vote will be proposed, the greater part of which will be spent on observations such as were originally contemplated. Then it was proposed that the management should be transferred to a scientific committee to be appointed by the Royal Society. Such a committee has been appointed, and they said they were not prepared to continue the system of storm signals and weather forecasts. Now, if the House is desirous of no other phony, we, of course, could not undertake to do so. Still the information which was collected would be telegraphed as heretofore to the different ports and stations throughout the kingdom in time to allow of forecasts to be made in any place where it was considered necessary to make them. Since the hon. and gallant gentleman gave notice of his question I have received from General Sabine, the chairman of the committee appointed by the Royal Society, a note with reference to this subject. He says:—"The usefulness of the present stations which telegraphic communications are daily received is under consideration, but the final selection of the stations is in the hands of the committee, who will be in a position to advise the Government by receiving communications from Paris, Brussels, and St. Petersburg. These stations are not on the sea coast, and telegrams from the latter stations would not be received in time for publication in the daily papers. This is the case with Skiddaw, Helmer, and Cornma. The committee already receive six telegrams from the coast of the continent, and none have been discontinued since the department has been in their hands. They are prepared at present to recommend any additional expense to be incurred on this head." Great advantage would no doubt be derived from having the communications referred to.

KENTUCKY JUSTICE.—A white man in Kentucky murdered his coloured mistress the other day; but he explained that he was afraid she would tell his wife he had a child by her, and Kentucky justice was satisfied. The murderer was a white man, and his wife, and accordingly the murderer, one of the cowardliest, it appears, was released without trial. Much as we are used to starting reports of Southern justice, his case was new. As we read it in a telegram, it seems that the taking of a white life is in Kentucky a matter of as much indifference as the throwing away of a bad cigar. A man commits the two worst crimes upon the weakest and humblest of women, and a Judge, in league with the law, releases him, and so how far the spirit of this hideous dispensation is shared by other magistrates, and by the public opinion of Kentucky, we do not stop to inquire. The state of things there must be almost hopeless, if it is possible for any other species of peace and order to exist free on personal explanation. Evidently the negro has one right in Kentucky, which white justice hardly disputes, and that is the right of being killed. The following is the telegram which we received from Louisville, February 7.—"Belle Hoover, a 'likely' coloured girl, was poisoned this morning by a white man who had been keeping her for a mistress. The man was arrested, and gave his reason that he was afraid the girl would tell his wife he had a child by her. He was tried this evening before Judge Kennedy, and, on making the above explanation, was released."

A MAN MURDERED BY HIS NEPHEW.—A shocking case of murder has occurred at a small village called Tibberton, about four miles from Worcester. From what has transpired, it appears that on Saturday night, three men—George Kelly, Thomas Kelly, son of the first-named, and William Kelly, son of Thomas Kelly—were at a public-house at Tibberton, and whilst there they were engaged in playing dominoes for liquor. About 10 o'clock Thomas Kelly and his wife left the public-house, and Kelly having been served with a quarrel from his uncle, and whilst waiting home a dispute arose between them, the younger Kelly taking off a portion of his clothes and challenging his uncle to fight. The father and Thomas Kelly appear to have remained behind at the public-house when his son and his brother quitted that place. William Kelly refused to fight, and both went home together. When George Kelly arrived at the house, which was all three living in, he was told by his wife that the dispute he had had with his uncle, and George Kelly then went into the garden and was followed by his brother. They began to fight, and the dispute was continued until the father and Thomas Kelly, coming to the assistance of his father, took up a "dolly" and struck his uncle on the forehead with such force that the latter remained insensible till the 4th, when he died from the effects of the blow. George and Thomas Kelly were apprehended, and taken before the magistrates, who, after hearing the evidence, discharged George Kelly, and committed Thomas for trial on a charge of wilful murder.

ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION IN WYRETH.—A desperate attempt at murder has taken place on the lands of Clynnghigh, within a short distance of the town of Tyrone, county Westmeath. On the 2nd February, a farmer named Patrick Keighan, was ploughing his field, when two men came up to him before he perceived them. One discharged a loaded gun at him, some of the slugs from which wounded him in the side, and the other, seeing that the intended murder was not accomplished, fired a shot from a second gun, which also took effect, wounding him more severely in the stomach. The wounded man fell to the ground, and one of the assassins, who, it appears, was the perpetrator of the crime, then walked off, and the other, who was not seen to identify either of them. That this is an agrarian outrage there is small doubt, Keighan being the occupant of some acres of which small cottiers had been some time in possession. It is doubtful whether Keighan will recover.—*Dublin Express.*

A GALLANT FELLOW.—Mr. Thomas Wright, M.A., F.R.S., records the following act of bravery:—"A railway porter named John Preece, aged 25, who was at the level crossing at St. Albans, in Hertfordshire, saw a child running across the line as a train was near approaching, and he instantly rushed to the rescue and saved its life. The child was not injured, but the brave man was knocked down by the train, and sustained such injuries that it was necessary at once to amputate his left arm at the shoulder, his right hand at the wrist, and his right foot at the ankle, and in this mutilated and helpless state he is now in the St. Albans railway in progress of recovery."

1859. FEBRUARY 15. TUESDAY. 16. WEDNESDAY. 17. THURSDAY. 18. FRIDAY. 19. SATURDAY. 20. SUNDAY. 21. MONDAY. 22. TUESDAY. 23. WEDNESDAY. 24. THURSDAY. 25. FRIDAY. 26. SATURDAY. 27. SUNDAY. 28. MONDAY. 29. TUESDAY. 30. WEDNESDAY. 1. THURSDAY. 2. FRIDAY. 3. SATURDAY. 4. SUNDAY. 5. MONDAY. 6. TUESDAY. 7. WEDNESDAY. 8. THURSDAY. 9. FRIDAY. 10. SATURDAY. 11. SUNDAY. 12. MONDAY. 13. TUESDAY. 14. WEDNESDAY. 15. THURSDAY. 16. FRIDAY. 17. SATURDAY. 18. SUNDAY. 19. MONDAY. 20. TUESDAY. 21. WEDNESDAY. 22. THURSDAY. 23. FRIDAY. 24. SATURDAY. 25. SUNDAY. 26. MONDAY. 27. TUESDAY. 28. WEDNESDAY. 29. THURSDAY. 30. FRIDAY. 1. SATURDAY. 2. SUNDAY. 3. MONDAY. 4. TUESDAY. 5. WEDNESDAY. 6. THURSDAY. 7. FRIDAY. 8. SATURDAY. 9. SUNDAY. 10. MONDAY. 11. TUESDAY. 12. WEDNESDAY. 13. THURSDAY. 14. FRIDAY. 15. SATURDAY. 16. SUNDAY. 17. MONDAY. 18. TUESDAY. 19. WEDNESDAY. 20. THURSDAY. 21. FRIDAY. 22. SATURDAY. 23. SUNDAY. 24. MONDAY. 25. TUESDAY. 26. WEDNESDAY. 27. THURSDAY. 28. FRIDAY. 29. SATURDAY. 30. SUNDAY. 1. MONDAY. 2. TUESDAY. 3. WEDNESDAY. 4. THURSDAY. 5. FRIDAY. 6. SATURDAY. 7. SUNDAY. 8. MONDAY. 9. TUESDAY. 10. WEDNESDAY. 11. THURSDAY. 12. FRIDAY. 13. SATURDAY. 14. SUNDAY. 15. MONDAY. 16. TUESDAY. 17. WEDNESDAY. 18. THURSDAY. 19. FRIDAY. 20. SATURDAY. 21. SUNDAY. 22. MONDAY. 23. TUESDAY. 24. WEDNESDAY. 25. THURSDAY. 26. FRIDAY. 27. SATURDAY. 28. SUNDAY. 29. MONDAY. 30. TUESDAY. 1. WEDNESDAY. 2. THURSDAY. 3. FRIDAY. 4. SATURDAY. 5. SUNDAY. 6. MONDAY. 7. TUESDAY. 8. WEDNESDAY. 9. THURSDAY. 10. FRIDAY. 11. SATURDAY. 12. SUNDAY. 13. MONDAY. 14. TUESDAY. 15. WEDNESDAY. 16. THURSDAY. 17. FRIDAY. 18. SATURDAY. 19. SUNDAY. 20. MONDAY. 21. TUESDAY. 22. WEDNESDAY. 23. THURSDAY. 24. FRIDAY. 25. SATURDAY. 26. SUNDAY. 27. MONDAY. 28. TUESDAY. 29. WEDNESDAY. 30. THURSDAY. 1. FRIDAY. 2. SATURDAY. 3. SUNDAY. 4. MONDAY. 5. TUESDAY. 6. WEDNESDAY. 7. THURSDAY. 8. FRIDAY. 9. SATURDAY. 10. SUNDAY. 11. MONDAY. 12. TUESDAY. 13. WEDNESDAY. 14. THURSDAY. 15. FRIDAY. 16. SATURDAY. 17. SUNDAY. 18. MONDAY. 19. TUESDAY. 20. WEDNESDAY. 21. THURSDAY. 22. FRIDAY. 23. SATURDAY. 24. SUNDAY. 25. MONDAY. 26. TUESDAY. 27. WEDNESDAY. 28. THURSDAY.

FUNERAL.—The relatives and friends of EDWARD BERTON are respectfully invited to attend the funeral of his deceased son; the procession to move from his residence, 121, George-st., at 3 o'clock, on FRIDAY, THIS DAY (Friday). JAMES CURTIS, Undertaker, 59, Hunter-st.

FUNERAL.—The friends of the late Mr. George Shirren are invited to attend the funeral of his late son, to move from his late residence, near the Red Lion Inn, on SUNDAY AFTERNOON, at a quarter past 3 o'clock. JAMES CURTIS, Undertaker, 59, Hunter-st.

FUNERAL.—The friends of Mr. W. H. W. are respectfully invited to attend the funeral of his daughter, CATHERINE GRAHAM, which will move from his residence, 227, Bourke-st., on WEDNESDAY, THIS AFTERNOON, at half past 2 o'clock. R. STEWART, Undertaker, Bathurst and Pitt streets.

FUNERAL.—The friends of Mr. ALEXANDER G. MILLER are respectfully invited to attend the funeral of his late wife, JOHANNA, the procession to move from his residence, 111, Pitt-st., near South Head Road, at 3 o'clock. THOMAS DIXON, Undertaker, South Head Road.

FUNERAL.—The friends of Mr. ROSEBANK SMITH, Auctioneer, are invited to attend the funeral of his late daughter ANNE MARIA, to move from his residence, No. 8, Macquarie-st., on SUNDAY, at 11 o'clock. JAMES CURTIS, Undertaker, 59, Hunter-st.

FUNERAL.—The friends of Mr. CORNELIUS RICHARDSON are invited to attend the funeral of his late son, JAMES PAUL, to move from his residence, No. 93, Farmington-st., on WEDNESDAY, THIS AFTERNOON, at 3 o'clock. J. and G. SHYING, Undertakers, No. 719, George-st., opposite Christ Church.

The Treasury, New South Wales, 23rd April, 1867.

CONTRACTS FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE.—The following contracts have been received for the supply of linen, drapery and clothing for the Public Service, for the year 1868. The tenders will be received at this office, until noon on MONDAY, the 1st day of May, 1867. The tenders must be in duplicate, and must be accompanied by a deposit of five pounds, which will be returned on the day of the opening of the tenders. The conditions of the contracts are to be found in the Treasury Office, and the necessary forms may be obtained at the Government Store, Circular Quay, where forms of tender and all necessary information may also be procured.

GEORGE F. HAGAR.

AUSTRALIAN MUTUAL PROVIDENT SOCIETY.—THIRD QUINQUENNIAL INVESTIGATION. Notice to the holders of Policies of the Assurance Branch, which at 25th December, 1867, had attained the Endowment of Five, and less than Six years. Cash values of bonuses will be paid on SATURDAY of each week, provided the certificates discharged be lodged, and the policy be produced, on or before the previous THURSDAY.

ALEXANDER J. BALSTON, Secretary.

Principal Office, Sydney, 1st April, 1867.

LONDON AND LANCASHIRE FIRE AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Chief Office—London, Strand, London.

Branch Office—Sydney, 1st April, 1867.

Capital—£1,000,000.

Annual Income, £150,000, rapidly increasing.

W. H. MACKENZIE, Jan., Secretary for New South Wales and Queensland, 96, Pitt-st., Sydney.

THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY (Limited).

Capital, £1,000,000.

LORIMER, LAMB AND ROSE, Agents.

THE ONLY MUTUAL LIFE OFFICE IN THE COLONIES.

AUSTRALIAN MUTUAL PROVIDENT SOCIETY.

Principal Office, NEW PITT-STREET, SYDNEY.

Parents effecting Policies with the AUSTRALIAN MUTUAL PROVIDENT SOCIETY have the guarantee of an Accumulated and Invested Fund amounting to £234,183.

And its business being conducted on the principle of MUTUAL ASSURANCE, the whole profits belong to the members, and are divided periodically among them.

BONUS PERIOD.

Policies issued by the Society during the current year, will be entitled to participate in the division of the FUND, on FEBRUARY, 1868.

By order of the Board, ALEXANDER J. BALSTON, Secretary.

Sydney, 1st February, 1867.

UNIVERSAL MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY (Limited).

Chief Office, 35, Cornhill, London.

Subsidiary Office, 11, Market-st., Sydney.

Capital, £1,000,000.

The undersigned is authorised to issue Policies, the claims on which can be made payable in London, India, China, Ceylon, or the Colonies. RATES on application to W. H. MACKENZIE, Jan., Agent, No. 96, Pitt-st., Sydney.

PRINCE OF WALES OPERA HOUSE.

ENTIRE CHANGE OF MANAGEMENT. COMPANY, AND ENTERTAINMENT.

Sole Lessee and Director—Mr. G. Coppin.

Stage Manager—Mr. J. H. Greville.

Treasurer—Mr. W. Dind.

THIS EVENING, April 26th.

LAST NIGHT OF MILKY WHITE.

Daniel White, Mr. GEORGE COPPIN.

Last Night of the "Performance"; LAST NIGHT OF FREDERICK OF PRUSSIA.

Stolack, Mr. GEORGE COPPIN.

TO-MORROW, SATURDAY—CHANGE OF BILL.

MR. COPPIN as PAUL REY and the WANDERING MINSTREL.

JULIA MATHEWS will shortly commence her FAREWELL PERFORMANCES.

SCHOOL OF ARTS.

Unfinished Success of Mr. and Mrs. GORELAY, in their New Original Entertainment.

MRS. MCGREGOR'S LEVEE.

Patronized by their Excellencies the Governors and Gilt of each colony they have had the honour of visiting, and acknowledging the attention, and no small amount of entertainment ever introduced into the colonies.

SCOTTISH CURIOSITIES.

slightly received with shouts of laughter and applause.

LITTLE JOHNNY.

each evening rapturously received in his comic ditties.

COLEMAN JACOBS,

the unrivalled pianist, and

the juvenile accompanist.

Beats can be secured at J. H. Anderson and Son's, 369, George-st.

Carriages may be ordered for 10 o'clock. Front Seats, 2s.; second, 2s.; gallery, 1s.

ARTIST'S WAREHOUSE.

at Madame SOHIER'S WAXWORK EXHIBITION, and will hold his horses daily from 10 a.m. till 10 p.m.

Also, just arrived, the latest sentimental curiosity, THE QUEENSLAND NATIVE MUMMY.

and SCOTT, the SUSSEX-STREET MURDERER. Admission 1s.; children half-price.

ALEXANDER HALL.

Open Evening, for DANCING.

Admission 2s. 6d. Commence 8 o'clock.

FREE CONCERT EVERY EVENING. at the Custom House Hotel, Macquarie-place.

FASHIONABLE DANCING.—Mr. J. CLARK'S CLASS, THIS EVENING, Colonnade, Elizabeth-st.

NOTICE.—Mr. C. W. RAYNER will RECOMMENCE his EVENING CLASS, on WEDNESDAY, the 1st May.

RANDWICK RACES. RANDWICK RACES.

Great New St. Lager Grand Stand, Underneath view of each race, from start to finish. Tickets, 2s. 6d. each.

RANDWICK RACES.—Great St. Lager of 1900 Sovereigns.—The Sydney Gold Cup, value 100 Sovereigns.—Her Majesty's Representatives—Queen's Plate. Patronized by the Great New St. Lager GRAND STAND.—Successful night all round.

Tickets 2s. 6d. each.

RANDWICK RACES.—The largest meeting of horses ever held in Australia. Great New St. Lager GRAND STAND.—Successful night all round.

Tickets 2s. 6d. each.

RANDWICK RACES.—Applications for Fruit and Cake Stalls, &c., to the Ladies, 445, Pitt-st., South.

AUSTRALIAN JOCKEY CLUB.

RANDWICK AUTUMN MEETING, 1867.

SATURDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, and SATURDAY, the 27th April, and 2nd, 3rd, and 4th May.

PATRON. His Excellency the Right Hon. Sir JOHN YOUNG, Bart., K.C.B., G.C.M.G., &c., &c., &c.

PRESIDENT. The Hon. R. DEAS THOMSON, C.B., &c., &c., &c.

VICED-PRESIDENT. Alfred Cheeka, Esq.

JUDGES AND HANDICAPERS. John Lockey, Esq.

STARTER. Richard H. Roberts, Esq., M.L.A.

SECRETARY AND TREASURER. Buchanan Thomson, Esq.

FIRST (ST. LEGER) DAY, SATURDAY, APRIL 27th.

First Race.—To start at 1.15 p.m.—The AUCTION TRIAL STAKES of 500 lbs. each, with 100 lbs. added; 11 mile, 10 mts.

Second Race.—To start at 2—The AUCTION CHAMPAGNE STAKES of 200 lbs. each, with 100 lbs. added; 11 mile, 10 mts.

Third Race.—To start at 3.15.—The AUCTION ST. LEGER STAKES of 500 lbs. each, with 100 lbs. added; 11 mile, 10 mts.

Fourth Race.—To start at 4.15.—The AUCTION ST. LEGER STAKES of 500 lbs. each, with 100 lbs. added; 11 mile, 10 mts.

Fifth Race.—To start at 5.15.—The AUCTION ST. LEGER STAKES of 500 lbs. each, with 100 lbs. added; 11 mile, 10 mts.

SIXTH (CUP) DAY, THURSDAY, MAY 2ND.

First Race.—To start at 1.15 p.m.—The FLYING HANDICAP of 500 lbs. each, with 100 lbs. added; 11 mile, 10 mts.

Second Race.—To start at 2.—The METROPOLITAN STAKES of 500 lbs. each, with 100 lbs. added; 11 mile, 10 mts.

Third Race.—To start at 3.15.—The AUCTION ST. LEGER STAKES of 500 lbs. each, with 100 lbs. added; 11 mile, 10 mts.

Fourth Race.—To start at 4.15.—The AUCTION ST. LEGER STAKES of 500 lbs. each, with 100 lbs. added; 11 mile, 10 mts.

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